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SEP 21 2006

Claims 2-6 are currently in this application with claim 1 having been cancelled and claims 2-6 having been amended herein. No new matter has been added.

The office action of April 27, 2006, object to the specification for failing to include a descriptive title. The specification is also objected to for certain informalities on pages 2 and 8. A new title is provided by these amendments, as well as replacement paragraphs for those portions of pages 2 and 8 highlighted by the Examiner. As it is believed the Examiner's bases for objection have been addressed by these amendments, withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Next, the office action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, due to certain informalities in the claims which it is alleged render the claims indefinite. Claims 2-6 have been amended herein to overcome the bases for this rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

On the merits, the office action rejects claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,365,518 to Noser in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,470 to Elliot. It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-6, as amended, patentably distinguish over the relied upon portions of the cited references for at least the following reasons.

As explained by the specification, one purpose of the device of the instant claims is to provide transmission equipment which is installed in a carrier that includes a packet processing function. This enables the number of cross-connect lines required for 1-to-n (point to multipoint) connections to be reduced as compared to traditional devices. Additionally, the device of the instant claims is able to provide efficient transmission of packet traffic without requiring extra preparation of hardware such as an aggregator/router.

Independent claim 4 recites:

a plurality of dedicated interface boards . . .

wherein each of the plurality of dedicated interface boards includes an extension interface so that a packet to be directed to a path accommodated in a first of the plurality of dedicated interface boards is routed to a predetermined path in the first dedicated interface board, and that a packet to be directed to a path not accommodated in the first dedicated interface board is routed to another dedicated interface board accommodating the path concerned

No such features can be found for example in Noser, which, as best understood, teaches signals connected to a module or server 100 through a VT matrix, where overhead processing and packet switching are performed. It is submitted that, contrary to the Examiner's suggestion, this server in Noser and the interface boards of the instant claims are not the same.

Noser, as best understood teaches interfaces 16 and 18 in addition to the server 100. None of these interfaces 16 or 18 includes any path switching function that demultiplexes the transmitted multiplexed packet signal to demultiplexed packets and routes each of the demultiplexed packets to a predetermined path.

Further, the input and output of the server 100 are fixedly connected to the input and output ports of the VT matrix. Accordingly, the server cannot route each of the demodulated packets to a predetermined path, but outputs to the fixed ports of the VT matrix.

Accordingly, it is submitted that neither Noser nor Elliot, whether used alone or in combination teach each and every element of the claim 4, as amended. Therefore, independent claim 4 patentably distinguishes over the relied upon portions of the cited references and is allowable. Claims 2-3, and 5-6, which depend from claim 4 are allowable therewith.

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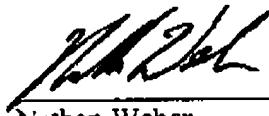
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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 2-6 are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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